An excellent Ballad Intituled;
The Constancy of Susanna.

To an excellent new tune.

There dwelt a man in Babylon,
of reputation great by fame:
He tooke to wife a faire woman,
Susanna she was call'd by name,
A woman faire and vertuous,
Lady, Lady,
Why should we not of her learne thus
to live godly?

Vertuously her life she led,
she feared God, she stood in awe,
As in the storie we have read,
was well brought up in Moses Law.
Her parents they were godly folke,
Lady, Lady,
Why should we not then sing and talke
of this Lady.

That yeare two Judges there was made
which were the Elders of Babylon,
To Ioachims house was all their trade,
who was Susannaes husband then,
Ioachim was a great rich man,
Lady, Lady,
These Elders oft to his house came
for this Lady.

Ioachim had an Orchard by,
fast joyning to his house or place,
Whereas Susanna commonly
her selfe did daily there solace,
And that these Elders soone espy'd,
Lady, Lady,
And privily themselves did hide
for that Lady.

Her chaste and constant life was tride,
by these two Elders of Babylon,
A time convenient they espide,
to have this Lady all alone,
In his Orchard it came to passe,
Lady, Lady.
Where she alone her selfe did wash
her faire body.

These Elders came to her anon,
& thus they said, faire dame God spéed,
Thy doors are fast, thy Maids are gone,
consent to us, and doe this déed:
For we are men of no mistrust,
Lady, Lady,
And yet to thee we have a lust,
O faire Lady.

If that to us thou dost say nay,
a testimoniall we will bring,
We will say that one with thée lay,
how canst then then avoid the thing?
Therefore consent and to us turne,
Lady, Lady,
For woe to thée in lust doe burne,
O faire Lady.

Then did she sigh, and said alas,
now woe is me on every side,
Was ever wretch in such a case?
shall I consent and doe this déed?
Whether I doe or doe it not,
Lady, Lady,
It is my death right well I wot,
O true Lady.

Better it were for me to fall
into your hands this day guiltlesse,
Then that I should consent at all,
to this your shamefull wickednesse,
And even with that (whereas she stood)
Lady, Lady,
Unto the Lord she cryed aloud
pitifully.

These Elders both likewise againe,
against Susanna aloud they cry'd,
Their filthy lust could not obtaine,
their wickednesse, they sought to hide
Unto her friends they then her brought
Lady, Lady,
And with all speed the like they sought
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The second part. To the same tune.

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ON the morrow she was brought forth
before the people there to stand,
That they might heare & know the truth
how these two Elders Susanna found,
The Elders swore and thus did say,
Lady, Lady,
How that they saw a young man lay
with that Lady.

Iudgement there was, for no offence,
Susanna causelesse then must dye,
These Elders bore such evidence,
against her they did verifie,
Who were believ'd then indeed,
Lady, Lady,
Against Susanna to proceed,
that she should dye.

Susannaes friends that stood her by,
they did lament, and were full woe,
When as they saw no remedy,
but that to death she then must goe,
Lady, Lady,
In God was all her hope and trust,
to him did cry.

The Lord her voice heard and beheld,
the Daughters cry of Israel,
His spirit he raised in a child,
whose name was call'd young Daniel,
Who cryed aloud whereas he stood,
Lady, Lady,
I am cleare of the guiltlesse blood
of this Lady.

Are you such fooles quoth Daniel then:
in iudgement you have not done well,
For yet the right way have you gone,
to iudge a daughter of Israel.
By this witnesse of false division,
Lady, Lady,
Wherefore to iudgement turne againe
for that Lady.

And when to iudgement they were set,
he called for those wicked men:
And soone he did them separate,
putting the one from the other, then,
He asked the first where he did see
that faire Lady,
He said unver a Mulberry tree,
who lyed falsely.

Thou lyest said Daniel, on thy head,
thy sentence is before the Lord,
He bad that forth he might be led.
and bring the other that bore record,
To see how they two did agree
for this Lady,
He said under a Pomgranat tree,
who lyed falsely.

Said Daniel as he did before,
behold the messenger of the Lord
Stands waiting for you at the doore,
even to cut thee with a sword.
And even with that the multitude,
aloud did cry,
Give thankes to God, so to concludo
for this Lady.

They dealt like with these wicked men
according as the Scripture saith,
They did as with their neighbour then,
by Moses law were put to death,
The innocent preserved was,
Lady, Lady,
As God by Daniel brought to passe,
for this Lady.

FINIS.

Printed at London for *Iohn Wright*, neere Pye-corner.